

Land Use Study Plan

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the land use study are to; 1) determine and describe existing and planned land uses in and near the project, 2) address land use issues identified by the Land Use Work Group and 3) identify opportunities and constraints related to land use.

Relationship to Relicensing/Need for Study

FERC relicensing regulations require that applicants prepare a report on lands in order to determine project conformance and compatibility with local and regional land uses and land plans. As part of that requirement, the land use study will be conducted. It is important to know what the existing and planned land uses are at and near a project, because land use and land use patterns influence how a project is managed and used now and in the future.

Study Area

The land use study will examine the lands within the Oroville Facilities FERC project boundary, contiguous properties and other lands within ¼ mile of the project boundaries.

Methodology and Analysis

The Land Use Study will consist of two phases: 1) an existing conditions inventory and 2) an analysis and evaluation of land use issues that includes an opportunities and constraints analysis. Each phase will consist of several tasks. The two phases are discussed below.

Phase 1: Existing Conditions Inventory

This phase will involve two tasks; 1) data collection (consisting of literature review and personal interview and; 2) mapping land use conditions.

Task 1: Data Collection (Literature Review and Interviews)

This task will involve reviewing and cataloging data in order to describe existing and planned future land uses within and adjacent to the project boundary. We will begin by identifying and discussing current land uses. We will then identify planned future land uses such as, platted but unbuilt, projects. We will also include a general discussion that will describe land uses that could occur in the future based upon the types of land uses that are allowed in the various comprehensive plans that guide land use near the project.

Literature review will include reviewing existing technical literature such as land management plans and popular literature such as guidebooks, websites and other informational pieces. In addition, we will interview agency land managers and planners along with private sector interests (if appropriate). If necessary, we will conduct field surveys to determine land uses.

Task 2: Mapping

We will begin by obtaining GIS layers from sources such as DWR, Butte County, the US Forest Service and the BLM. In addition to electronic data, we will obtain and review information from reports, and maps. Relevant information will be added to the GIS land use database in order to have a current map of land uses. We will have appropriate work groups; land management agencies and other groups or individuals review the maps for accuracy.

Phase 2: Evaluation and Analysis of Data

This phase will involve taking information regarding current land use that was obtained during Phase 1 and evaluating and analyzing it for three purposes. The evaluation and analysis activities will be used in order to; 1) address issues that were developed by the Land Use Workgroup; 2) address new issues that may be uncovered during the studies; 3) identify opportunities and constraints regarding land use at the project.

Task 1: Addressing Specific Land Use Issues Identified by the Land Use Work Group

This task will address specific land use issues identified by the Land Use Work Group. For example, this is how we would approach Land Use Issue 1 (appropriate, compatible and potential developmental and non-developmental uses of project lands). After Phase 1 was complete and we knew what the existing and planned land uses at and adjacent to the project were, we would contact other work groups. We would ask them to identify sensitive lands (from an environmental or cultural perspective) along with potential developments or enhancements (for purposes such as wildlife or recreation enhancement). We could then depict areas around the project where there could be conflicts in proposed land use, where there would be no conflicts and where there may be opportunities to collaborate. This would allow us to evaluate appropriate, compatible developmental and non-developmental uses of project lands and would tie in to the opportunity and constraint analysis that would be conducted as part of Task 3 (below).

Task 2: Addressing New Issues That May be Uncovered During the Studies

There is a chance that new issues related to land use will be uncovered by the Land Use Work Group or other work groups while the studies are being conducted. If this occurs, we propose to contact all of the people in the Land Use Work Group via e-mail to identify the new issue, explain how we would propose to deal with it, and if appropriate, set up a conference call or meeting to discuss it. The degree to which the work group would need to get involved would depend upon the complexity of the issue. We propose at a minimum, to keep the work group if new issues arise.

Task 3: Opportunity and Constraints Analysis

After identifying the range of land uses that occur within, and adjacent to, the project and after addressing the issues identified by the Land Use Work Group and others, we will perform an opportunity and constraints analysis. Task 3 will begin by summarizing all of the issues that have been identified by the various work groups that could have an impact on land use at the project. We will then identify potential conflicts related to land uses (such as a proposed recreation site in an environmentally sensitive area) and potential areas for collaboration (such as an area that is environmentally sensitive and has cultural significance). Finally, based on the opportunity and constraint analysis, we will recommend policies and actions for future land use at the project.

Results/Products

The deliverables of the Land Use Study will consist of a Land Use Resource Report and land use maps. The resource report will include the information gathered, synthesized and analyzed for the tasks associated with Phase 1 and Phase 2.

GIS based maps will be generated that will display current land use, current land use designations by the agencies managing lands in and adjacent to the project and land use opportunities and constraints. The GIS database will also be able to calculate quantitative information such as acreage, lineal feet of shorelines, or any number of other criteria such as land use type, land use designation and ownership.

Coordination With Other Resource Areas/Studies

Prior to starting the land use study, we will meet with other work groups to determine where and when relevant data can be gathered and shared by other groups. Much of data collection that will be done for the other lands related studies will be done in conjunction with this study. The Land Use Study will be coordinated with the teams performing studies associated with the Engineering

and Operations; Environmental; Cultural Resources; and Recreation and Socioeconomic Work Groups.

Schedule

Phase 1 of this study is tentatively scheduled to start during late winter of 2002 and be completed by early summer of 2002. Phase 2 is tentatively scheduled to begin in the summer of 2002 and be completed by late fall or early winter of 2002.

Issues, Concerns, Comments Tracking and/or Compliance Requirements

The Land Use Study will address the following draft issue statements.

LU1 – appropriate, compatible and potential developmental and non-developmental uses of project lands.

Issues addressed

LM E1 – more areas for recreation
LM E2 – land access to far north of reservoir
LM E3 – increased communication related to DWR land use
LM E7 – possible preservation of lands for open/natural areas/greenbelts
LM E9 – livestock grazing effects

LU2 – potential for acquiring or removing project lands.

Issues addressed

LU E4 – status and potential of property at Lime Saddle Marina
LU E5 – examine all PG&E lands adjacent to the project
LU E9 – potential acquisition of Federal lands within project boundary
LU E1- potential of selling state lands to private interests

LM1 – what are the funding and staffing needs to adequately address land management issues?